

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IRAQ HOSTS MEETING OF RIVAL ERITREAN LIBERATION FACTIONS

1. SUMMARY: OPPOSING FACTIONS OF ERITREAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT MET IN BAGHDAD AUGUST SEVENTH IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE TO TRY TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. AUGUST 8TH ISSUE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER GAVE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO TWO HOUR MEETING HELD AUGUST 7 IN BAGHDAD BETWEEN OPPOSING WINGS OF ERITREAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT REPRESENTED BY OTHMAN SALEH SUBI (ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT/ PEOPLE'S LIBERATION) FORCES AND ABDULLA IDRIS (MILITARY BUREAU). MEETING WAS TO SET STAGE FOR UNIFICATION OF ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. MEETING WAS ARRANGED BY AND CHAIRED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL (I.E. PAN-ARAB) LEADERSHIP OF ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF MEETING:

"AT THIS MEETING COMRADES SALEH SUBI AND ABDULLAH IDRIS AGREED ON ENTERING INTO A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT WITH THE OBJECT OF UNIFYING THEM INTO A REVOLUTIONARY INSTRUMENT LEADING THE

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STRUGGLE OF THE ERITREAN PEOPLE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF

SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. COMRADES SUBI AND IDRIS
AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1) SIDE-STEPPING ALL THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND SENSITIVITIES
OF THE FORMER STAGE AND CONCENTRATING, WITH A SPIRIT OF
RESPONSIBILITY, ON THE UNIFICATION OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION
FRONT.

2) ARRANGING FOR A MEETING TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN
DELEGATIONS OF THE TWO SIDES ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1975 WHICH
CONCIDES WITH THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF
THE ERITREAN REVOLUTIONS. THIS IS TO BE PRECEDED BY A
PRELIMINARY MEETING ON AUGUST 12, 1975.

3) THE INFORMATION MEDIA OF BOTH SIDES SHALL, FROM THIS
MOMENT ON, DEVOTE THEMSELVES ENTIRELY, IN AND OUTSIDE
ERITREA, FOR MOBILISING THE MASSES IN THE DIRECTION OF
REINFORCING NATIONAL UNITY, LIQUIDATING THE HANGOVERS OF THE
PAST STAGE AND CREATING FAVOURABLE CLIMATES FOR THE SUCCESS
OF THE DIALOGUE AND FOR ATTAINING THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE
THROUGH UNIFYING THE INSTRUMENT OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION
AND ENHANCING ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR IT."

3. OTHMAN SALEH SUBI, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AUGUST 8 FROM
BAGHDAD, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE PRAISED TIRELESS
EFFORTS OF BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING TWO SIDES
TOGETHER AND CONCEDED THAT LACK OF UNITY WITHIN ERITREAN
LIBERATION FRONT CONSTITUTED MAIN OBSTACLE TO LIBERATION.

4. ABDULLAH IDRIS MADE REMARKS IN SIMILAR VEIN PRIOR TO HIS
AUGUST 10 DEPARTURE FROM BAGHDAD, ADDING "WE ARE CLOSE TO
WINDING UP OUR DISAGREEMENTS."
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